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SOME METHODS OF HANDLING AND STACKING BALED HAY AND STRAW ON THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

by

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CONTENTS

Page

Introduction 1

Considerations for stacking baled hay and straw 1

Stacking procedure for rectangular bales 1

Methods of collecting baled hay and straw 3

Four-wheel trailer 3

Dump trailer 4

Sled 5

Shape of Stacks 6

Rectangular bales 6

Illustration 1 6
Illustration 2 7
Illustration 3 8
Illustration 4 9

Round bales 10

Illustration 5 10
Illustration 6 11
Illustration 7 12

Suggestions for loading and hauling round bales of hay or straw 13

Loading and hauling round bales of hay or straw 14

Baled hay hook 15

Loaders and elevators 16

Acknowledgement 16

SOME METHODS OF HANDLING AND STACKING BALED HAY AND STRAW

Introduction

The practice of stacking baled hay and straw in the field, semi-permanent or permanent stack yards is a relatively recent development here in Southwestern Saskatchewan. Baled hay or even baled straw may be kept over a period of years if the stacks are well built. Losses due to weathering in well built stacks may be kept to a minimum, only slightly effecting the outer bales.

Extra caution must be taken to put only well cured hay into the stacks.

Considerations for stacking baled hay and straw

1. Location of the stack.

   (a) The stack or stacks should be located to avoid water courses or low places and have adequate drainage at all times.

   (b) The stack or stacks should be located to avoid crowding from the point of fire protection.

2. Size of the stack.

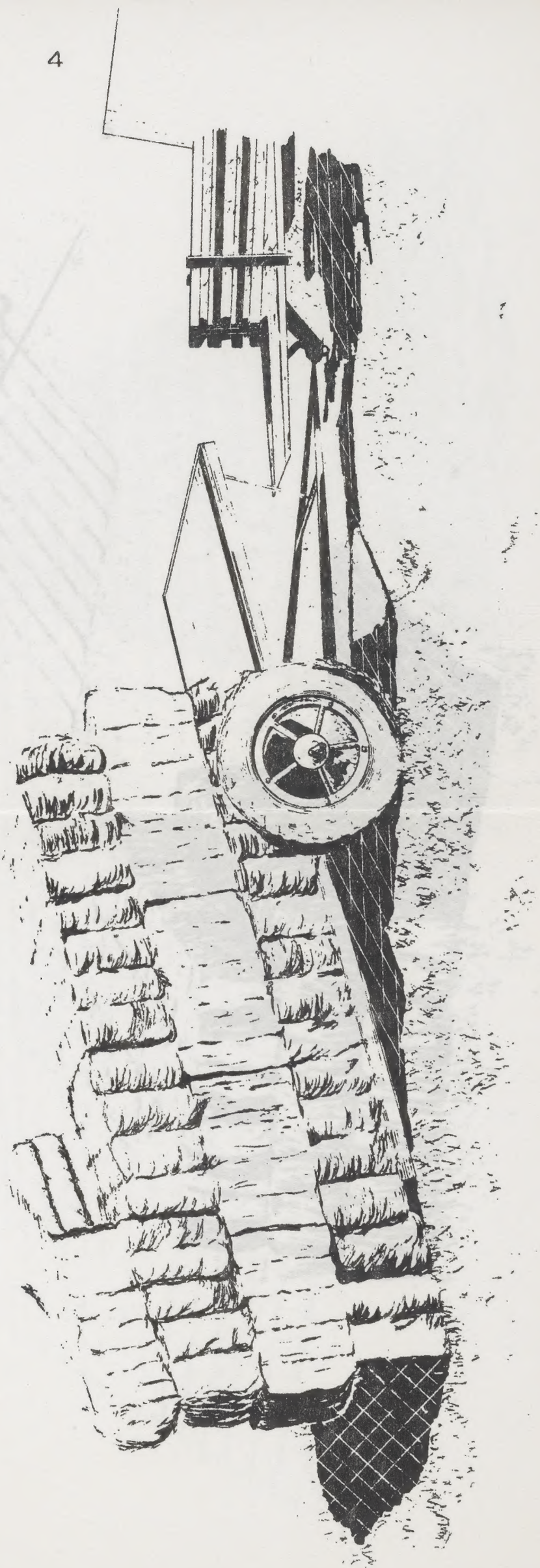
   No specific dimensions can be laid down. Usually the width of the stack is approximately 18 feet and the length will vary depending upon the amount of baled hay and straw to be placed into the stack. The height of the stack is governed by the amount of labour and equipment available for placing the baled hay up into the stack.

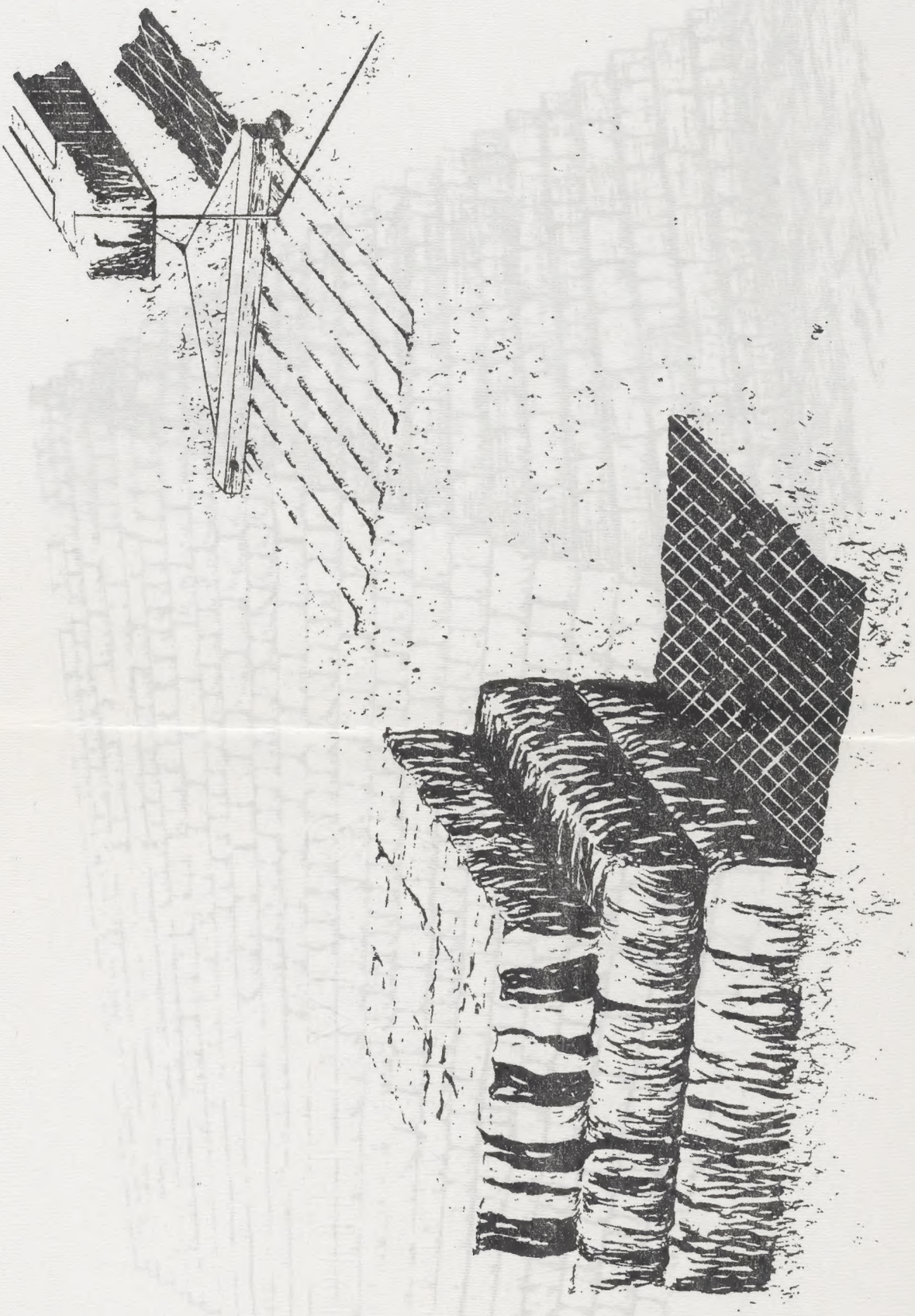
Stacking procedure for rectangular bales

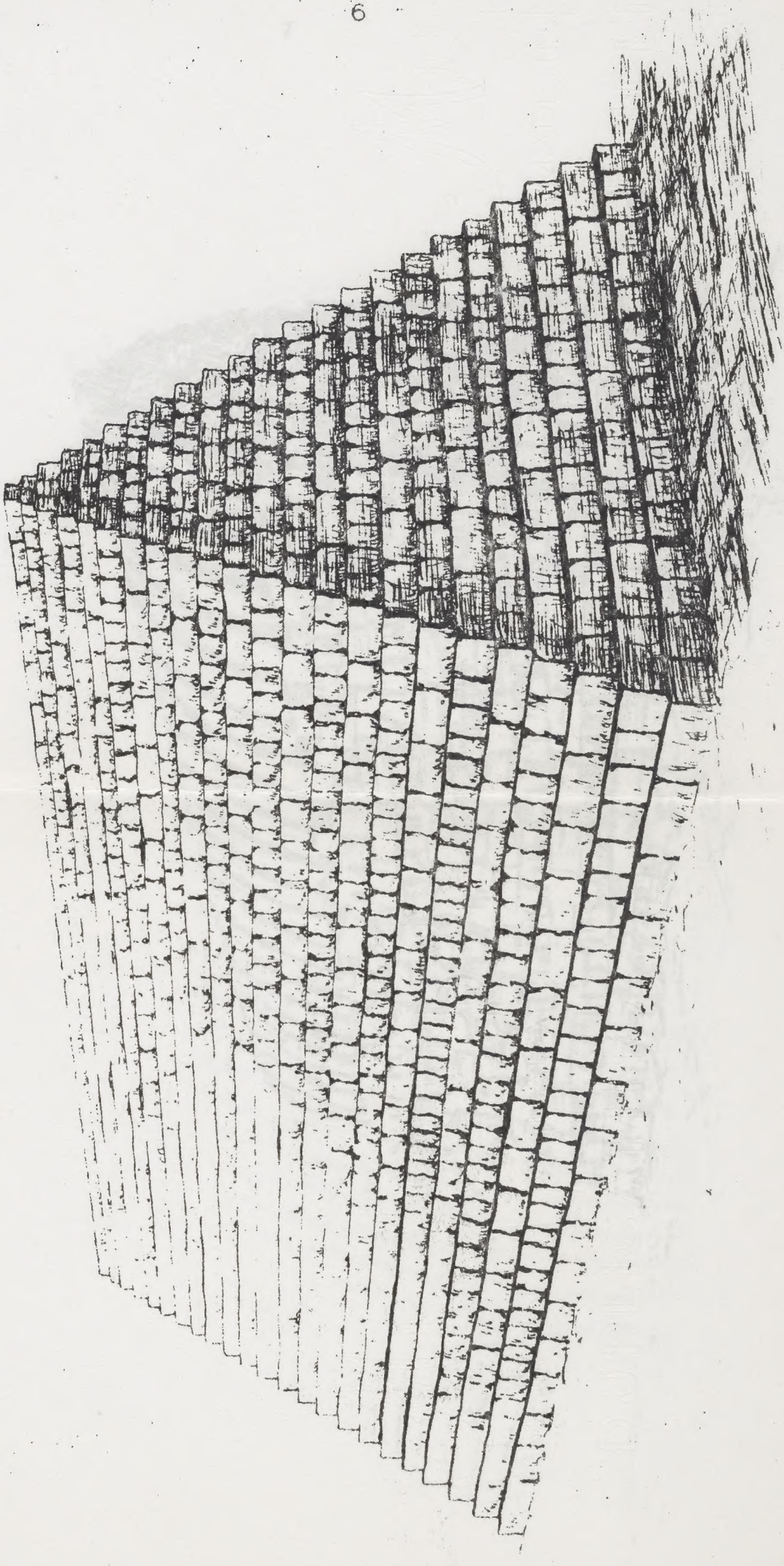
A layer of straw or hay should be placed on the ground prior to stacking the bales in order to prevent the wire or twine bale ties coming into direct contact with the ground. A further precaution should be taken by placing the first row of bales in such a manner that the wire or twine is on the side and not on the bottom.

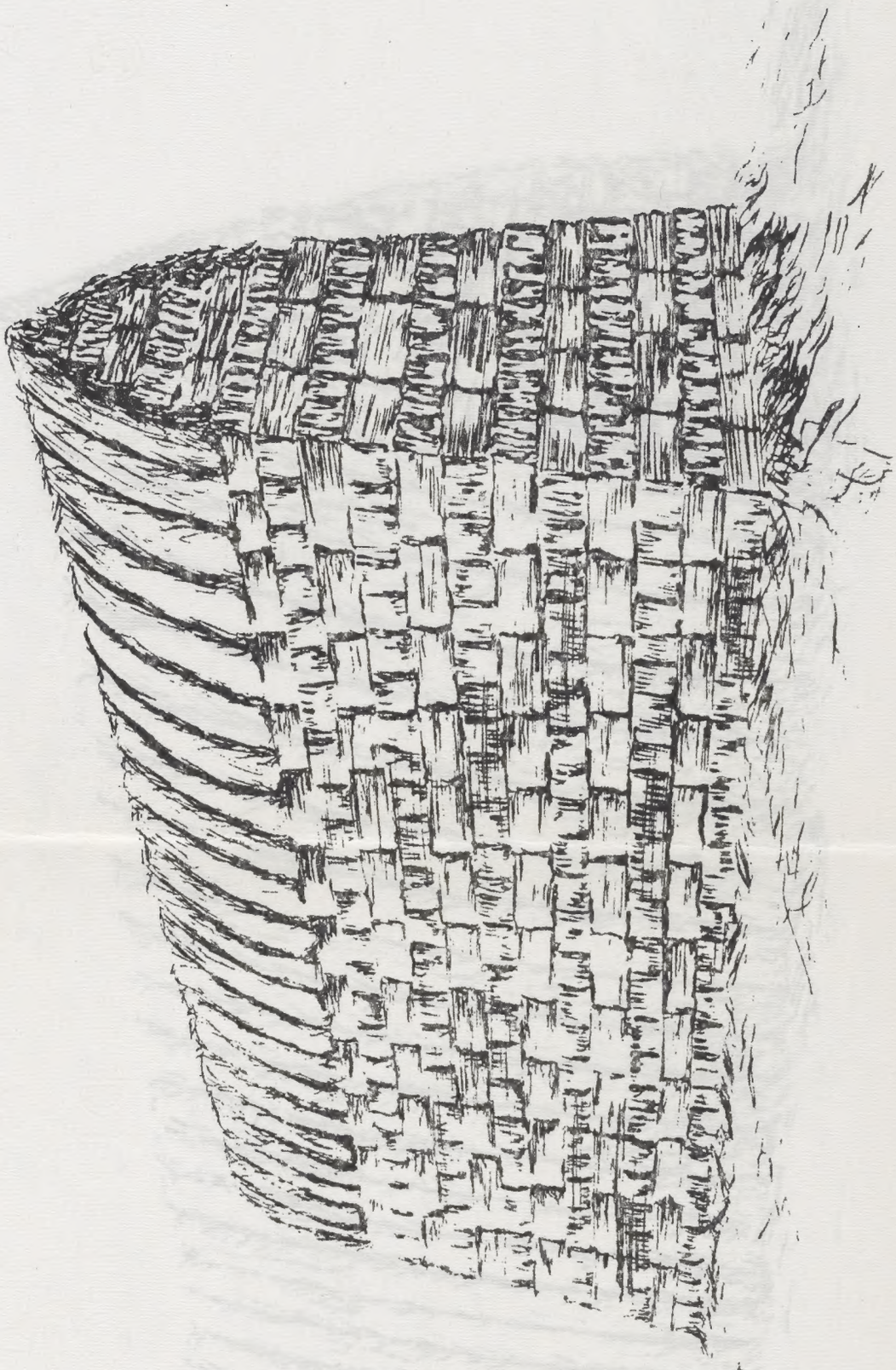
The baled hay should then be placed into the stack in definite layers. Each succeeding layer should be placed perpendicular to the preceeding layer. Extra special care must be taken to place the bales carefully along the outer edge of the stack. These bales must be firm and well tied. Some operators prefer to build stacks of baled hay by keeping the sides fairly straight and up to a height of 10 to 12 bales leaving a flat top. The top of the stack is then covered with loose hay in much the same

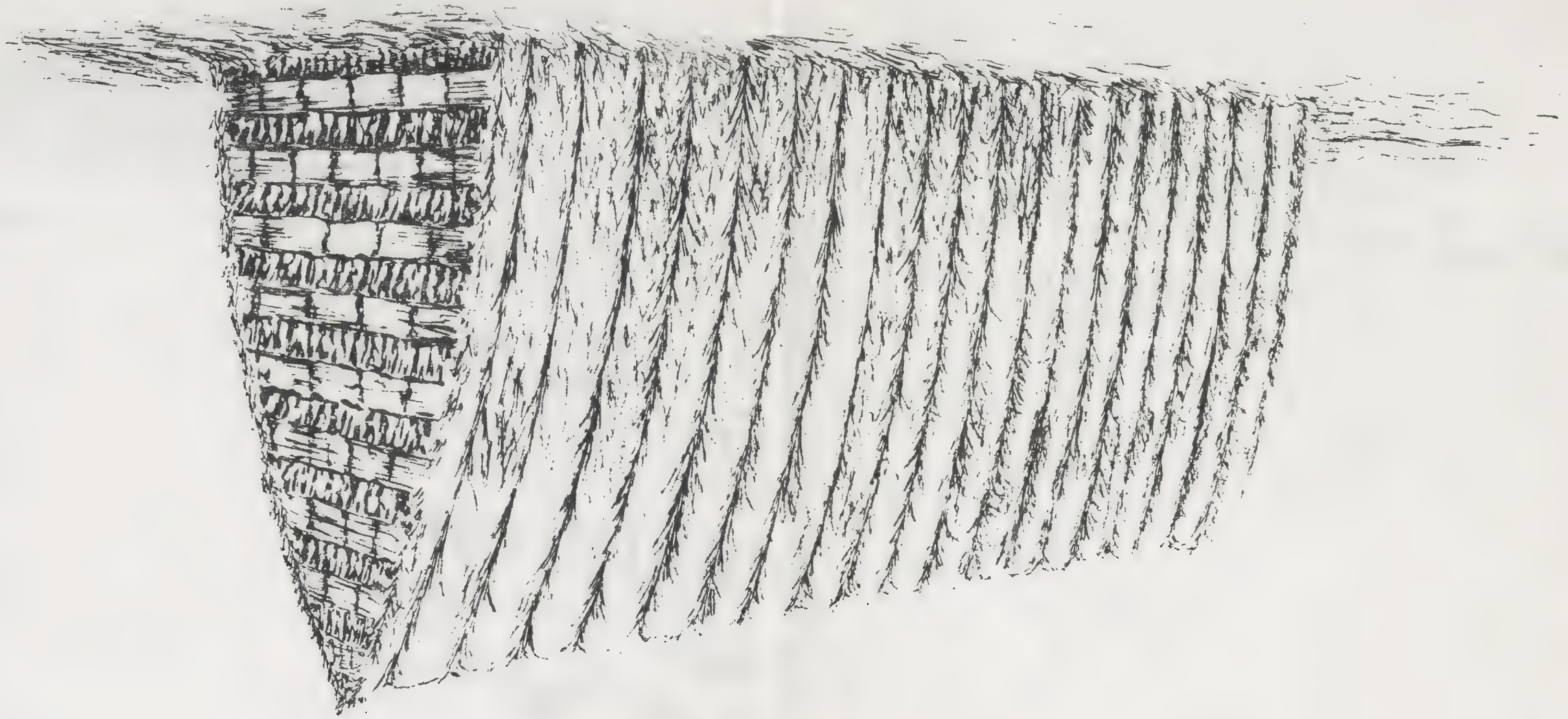
manner as topping a stack of loose hay. Others prefer to build stacks of baled hay be keeping the sides straight for approximately five or six bales high and then drawing in towards the centre each successive layer of bales, the width of one-half a bale until the stack is completed. The entire surface is then covered with loose hay and this is held down with wire or twine.

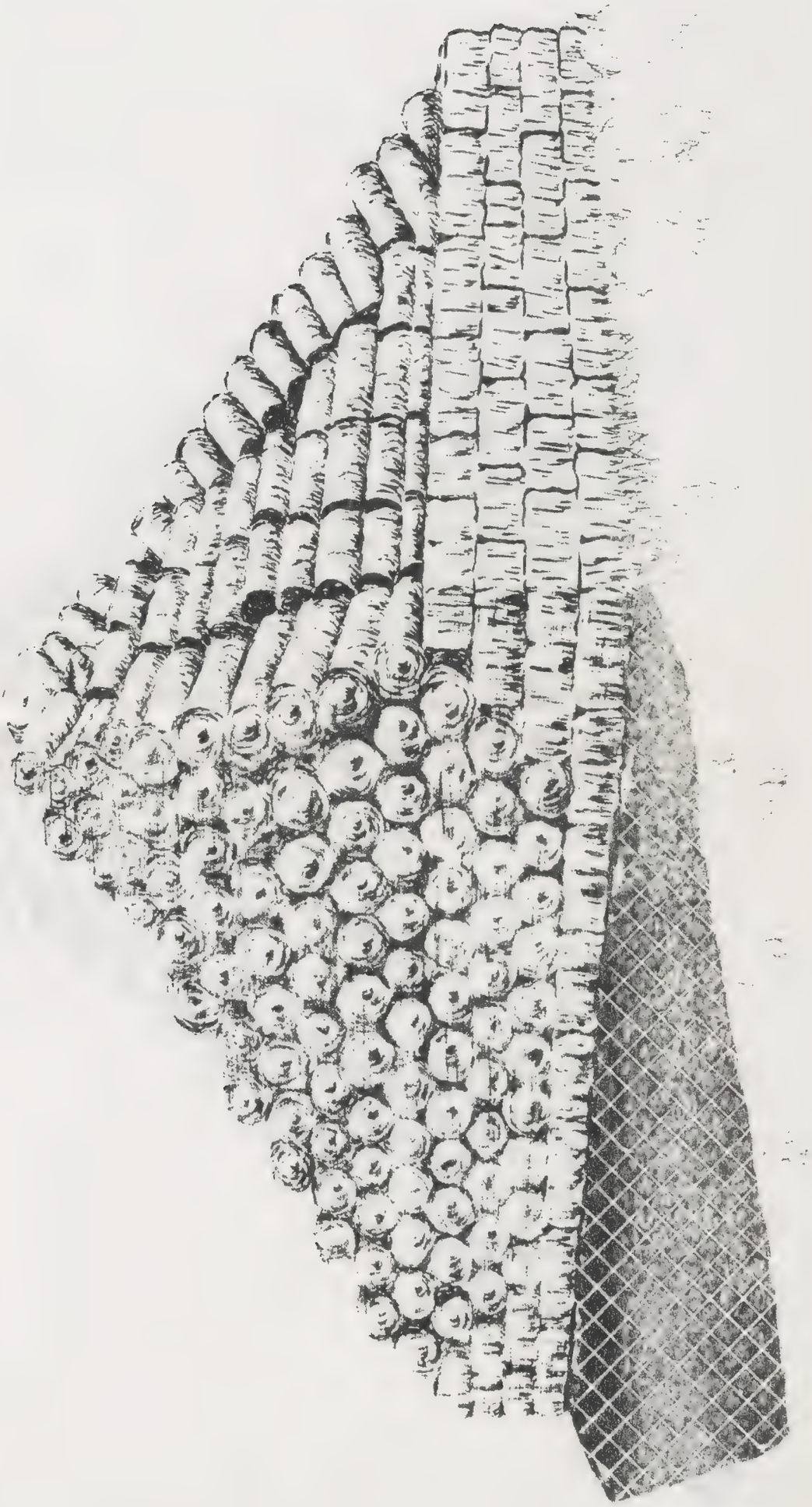


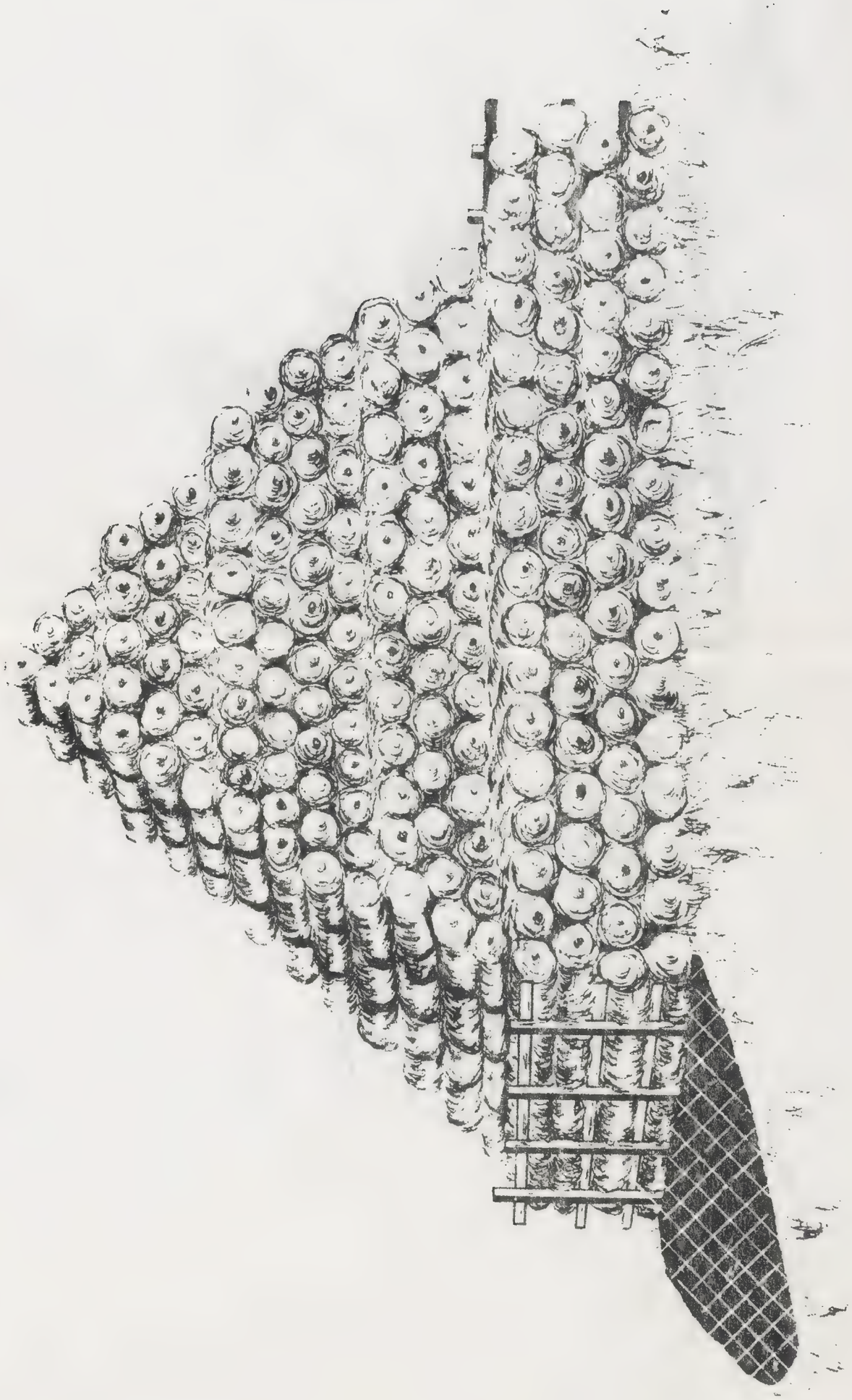












BUILT BY
MR. J. ROZMAHEL
VIKING, ALBERTA.

Suggestions For Loading and Hauling Rolled Bales of Hay or Straw

"The sketch on Page 14 shows suggestions for preparing the truck bed and loading of bales. These suggestions cover one proved method and for contrast, also show one wrong way of loading.

"Those concerned with maximum loads stacked for long hauls may develop other methods equally good or better for their particular equipment. Farmers who bale and haul hay for their own use will doubtless use such trucks or wagons as are available and load for shorter hauls.

"In preparing the truck bed, either closed or lattice standards of desired height should be placed at each end of bed. These should be supported by either ropes or brace rods as shown.

"Next, place a 2" x 4" lengthwise on each side of truck bed. These should be laid on their flat side and toe-nailed to the bed. Their purpose is to hold both outside tiers from slipping outward at the bottom and to slope them slightly towards the center.

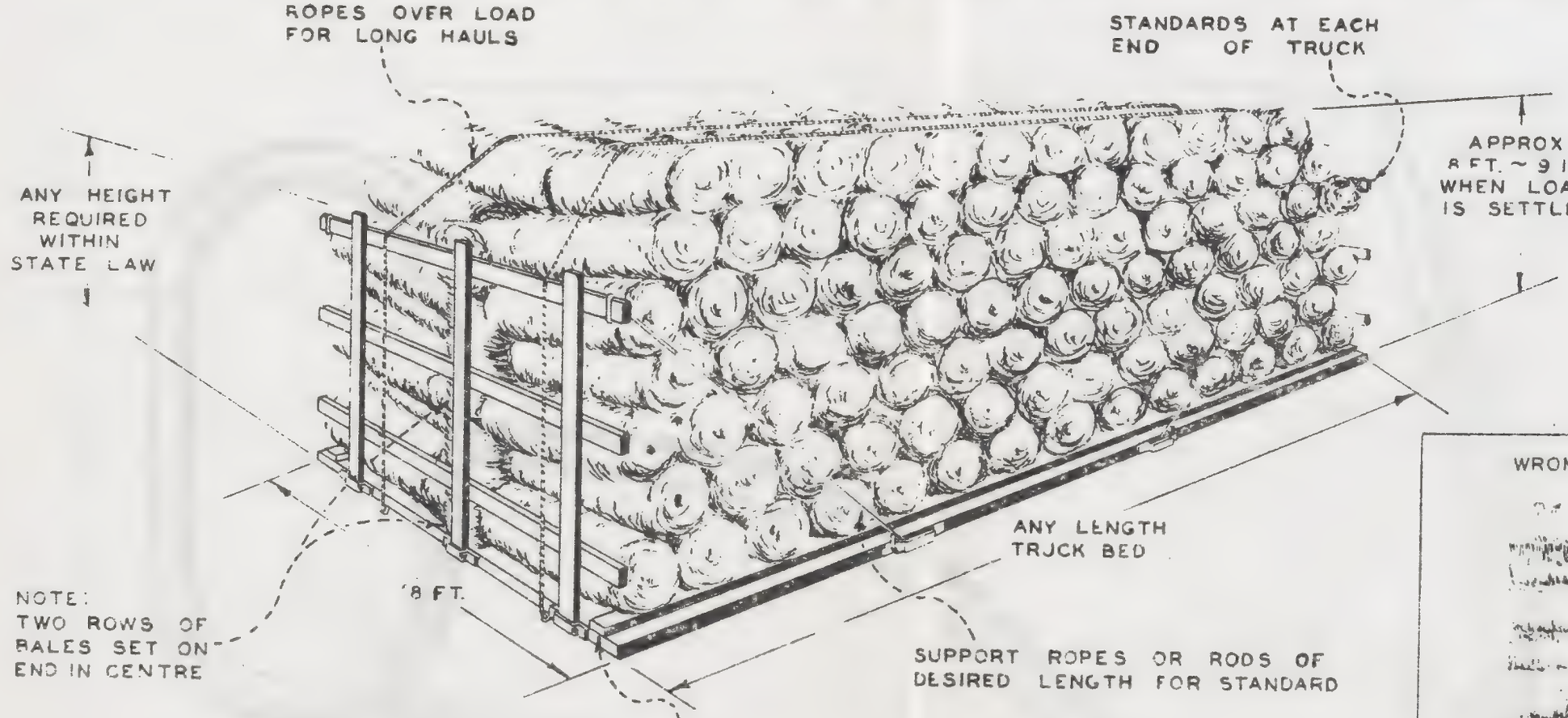
"You will notice that the finished load shows two rows of bales set on end through the middle of load (one above the other) full length of the truck. Above these is a row lying horizontally. Both outside tiers are nestled like cigarettes in a pack and the top bales are moved in to meet at the center to tie the load together. For long hauls, ropes may be placed lengthwise over the load.

"Another advantage of the rolled bales is that ropes may be tightly drawn over the load without danger of the ropes pulling through the bale or breaking the twine.

"Truckers who have hauled Allis-Chalmers rolled bales like them because they handle easily, are extremely sturdy, do not break the twine and produce more tonnage per load."

ALLIS-CHALMERS MANUFACTURING COMPANY
Tractor Division
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

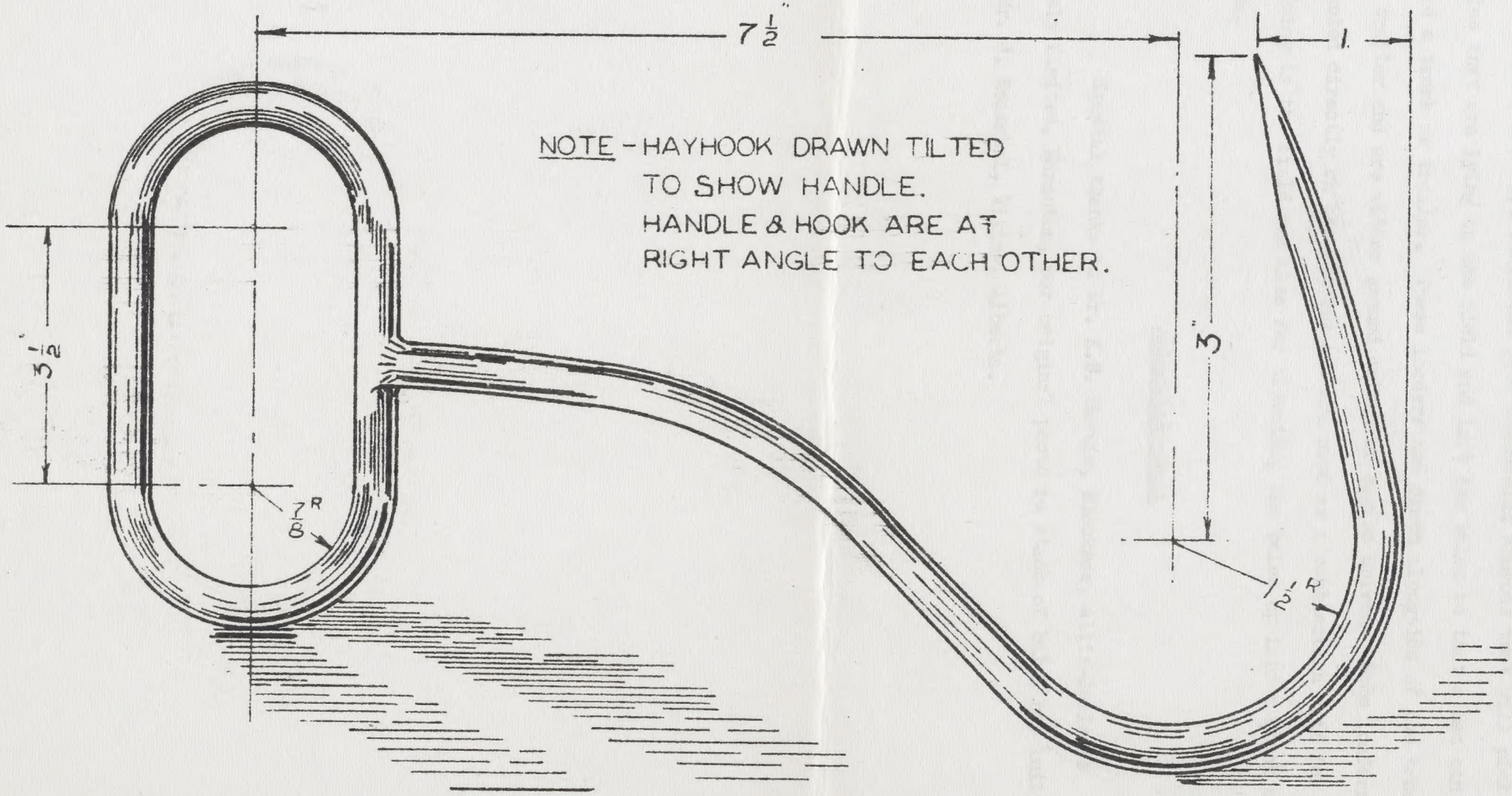
SUGGESTED METHOD FOR LOADING AND HAULING ROLLED BALES


ROPES OVER LOAD FOR LONG HAULS
STANDARDS AT EACH END OF TRUCK
APPROX. 8 FT. ~ 9 IN. WHEN LOAD IS SETTLED
ANY HEIGHT REQUIRED WITHIN STATE LAW
ANY LENGTH TRUCK BED
8 FT.
NOTE: TWO ROWS OF BALES SET ON END IN CENTRE
SUPPORT ROPES OR RODS OF DESIRED LENGTH FOR STANDARD
2" X 4" TOE NAILED FULL LENGTH AT EACH SIDE OF TRUCK BED TO PREVENT SLIPPAGE AND TO SLOPE SIDE TIERS SLIGHTLY TOWARDS CENTRE

ALLIS-CHALMERS MFG. CO.
TRACTOR DIVISION
MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN.

WRONG LOADING

NOTE: CENTRE BALES LYING LENGTHWISE ON TOP EACH OTHER. ARROWS INDICATE DIRECTION BALES WILL MOVE AND PUSH LOAD OUT AT SIDE



NOTE - HAYHOOK DRAWN TILTED
TO SHOW HANDLE.
HANDLE & HOOK ARE AT
RIGHT ANGLE TO EACH OTHER.

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE.

Loaders and Elevators

Loaders are available from commercial sources that will pick up bales that are lying in the field and lift the bales so that a man can load a truck or trailer. These loaders are drawn alongside of the truck or trailer and are either ground driven or engine driven. Some loaders are mounted directly on the tractor and are used as a combination unit for loading in the field and also for elevating the bales up into a stack or barn.

Acknowledgement

Special thanks to Mr. E.B. Martin, Blockman, Allis-Chalmers Rumely Limited, Edmonton, for original photo re stack of baled hay built by Mr. J. Rozmahel, Viking, Alberta.

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